(b) The reasons that could be attributed for the downward trend are (i) non-availability of funds, (ii) re-organisation of purchasing pattern, i.e. instead of buying by the centralised Agencies in the past for theh entire USSR, now each counry and the Federation buying individually, depending upon the funds, need and consumption pattern.

(c) For April-September, 1991 the exports to RCA countries was Rs. 146.65 crores.

(d) The exports made to GCA dur'ng 1991-92 were 1159.33 creres and 1992-93 Rs. 103997 crores (for April-December, 1992).

(SOURCE : Foreign Trade Statistics of India, DGCI&S, Calcutta)

700. *[Transferred to 13th May,* 1993]

भारतीय व्यापार संवर्धन संस्थान में चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के रिक्त पद

701. श्री मूल चन्द मीणा :

श्री बी. नारायणसामी :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन भारतीय व्यापार सवर्धन संस्थान में चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के कितने पद रिक्त पड़े हुए हैं ;

(ख) इनमें से अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों के लिए कितने पद आरक्षित हैं; और

(ग) इन पदों को अभी तक न भर पाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) से (ग) भारत व्यापार संवर्धन संगठन में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के 59 पद रिक्त पड़े हैं । इनमें से 39 (अनु. जाति के लिए 19 तथा अनु. जन जाति श्रेणी के लिए (20) पद अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जन-जाति के लिए आरक्षित है । इन आरक्षित पदों को भरने के लिए विशेष भर्ती अभियान के तहत एक विज्ञापन दिया जा चुका है ।

Trade with East European Countries

702. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of steps taken by Government to boost Indian trade with East European countries and countries which formed parts of the erstwhile Soviet Union ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : The various steps taken, on an ongoing basis, to boost Indian trade with East European countries and countries which formed parts of former Soviet Union include inter-alia, conclusion of new framework trade agreements substituting rupee payment trade by trade in freely convertible, currencies, countertrade, conclusion of new and more extensive inter-banking arrangements, proposal to set up Joint Venture Banks, exchange of commercial visits, opening of new diplomatic missions, and trade representat ons, extension of credits, emphasis on promotion of joint ventures, encouragement to and promotion of direct business level contacts, development of transport and transit routes, and intensification of economic cooperation such as through training, provision of expense and consultancy services etc.

Increase in Prices of Coffee

703. SHRI S VIDUTHA1AI VIRUMBI : Will the Minister of COM MERCE be pleased to state :

I (a) what are the reasons for the sudden increase in the prices of raw coffee and blended powder sold in the domestic market; and

(b) what are the steps taken by Go-vernmem to bring the prices under con-